Lafayette College

Easton, PA • Private School

College Free Speech RANKINGS

The most comprehensive guide to free speech on campus — anywhere

Because a true university education requires freedom of expression.

The College Free Speech Rankings are based on student surveys, campus policies, and recent speech-related controversies.

OVERALL RANK
235
/261
▼ -3 FROM 2025

GRADE
F
F FROM 2025

CONTROVERSIES
1
0 FROM 2026

Overview

Lafayette College ranks 235 out of 261 schools in the 2027 College Free Speech Rankings with a score of 54 and an F speech climate grade.

Lafayette tumbled 153 places after ranking in the top 25 last year for "Political Tolerance," showing reduced student willingness to host controversial speakers. It jumped 163 places from the bottom 50 last year in "Disruptive Conduct," signaling lower student acceptance of non-peaceful forms of protest.

Lafayette retains a "red light" Spotlight rating. It should revise student policies to earn a "green light" Spotlight rating, adopt the pro-free speech Chicago Statement, and adopt an official commitment to institutional neutrality. It should respond clearly and forcefully to defend free speech whenever censorship occurs or is demanded. Doing so will demonstrate the college's commitment to free expression and build community trust that the administration will defend expressive rights.

View the Full Spotlight Rating

Spotlight Rating
Red



FIRE's Spotlight database annually rates regulations on student expression based on the extent to which they restrict free speech.

If you are a school administrator and would like to discuss your rating, reach out to speechcodes@fire.org.

Visit our website, rankings.fire.org, for more information.

HIGHLIGHTS

38

38% of students say they have self-censored on campus at least once or twice a month.

69

69% of students say shouting down a speaker to prevent them from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

19

19% of students say using violence to stop someone from speaking on campus is acceptable, at least in rare cases.

3.61 : 1

There are roughly 3.61 liberal students for every one conservative student.

Institutional Neutrality

NOT ADOPTED

Chicago Statement for Free Speech

NOT ADOPTED

SCORE DEEP DIVE

COMFORT EXPRESSING IDEAS

D

▲ INCREASE

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

B–

▲ INCREASE

OPENNESS

C

— NO CHANGE

SELF-CENSORSHIP

D

▲ INCREASE

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

F

▲ INCREASE

POLITICAL TOLERANCE

F

▼ DECREASE

SCHOLARS UNDER FIRE

0

STUDENTS UNDER FIRE

1

DEPLATFORMINGS

0